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Lester J. Chong

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THE DIRECTV GROUP INC

PATENT DOCKET ADMINISTRATION RE/R11/A109

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EL SEGUNDO, CA 90245-0956

EXAMINER

NEURAUTER, GEORGE C

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2143

DATE MAILED: 10/23/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

DETAILED ACTION

Claims 1-12 and 14-19 are currently presented and have been examined.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed 7 June 2006 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

The Applicant argues that Freund does not disclose receiving a request for content from a client computer, where said request includes a port number assigned to an application program running on said client computer.

Freund expressly discloses:

"The flow diagram illustrated in FIG. 9 shows a method 900 of operation for the router-side security module of the present invention when the router receives a request for connection to the Internet from a local computer. In step 910, a connection attempt from one of the local computers to the Internet is received by the router." (paragraph 0147)

"In step 950 the routing component determines whether or not the destination port is HTTP (port 80 TCP)." (paragraph 0148)

"For purposes of discussion, the following description will present examples in which it will be assumed that there exists a "server" (e.g., Web server) that communicates with one or more

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"clients" (e.g., personal computers running Web browsers such as Netscape Navigator or Microsoft Internet Explorer)." (paragraph 0065)

Therefore, Freund clearly discloses these limitations.

The Applicant argues that the "sandbox server" as described in Freund is not a content filtering server as described in the claim. However, the claim does not specifically recite and therefore require any functional feature other than the claimed "configured to listen for requests on said new port number" and indicating "whether said content is restricted based on said request and said new port number". Limitations from the specification are not read into the claim. See *In re Van Geuns*, 988 F.2d 1181, 26 USPQ2d 1057 (Fed. Cir. 1993).

As shown in Freund, the "sandbox server" listens for requests on the new port number (paragraph 0149, specifically "Also in step 951, if the entry in the router compliance table is less than 256, then the destination port is set to the value of the table entry plus 8080. For example if the table entry is 1, the destination port is set to port 8081 (which represents 8080 plus 1). This also conveys information to the sandbox server in the HTTP header permitting the sandbox server to categorize the reason for non-compliance.") (see also paragraph

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0115, specifically "The sandbox server listens for communications on a number of ports.").

Freund also discloses:

"If a computer has not properly responded or if a computer has not answered the router challenge, then the computer is not allowed to connect to the Internet as requested. Instead, the non-compliant computer is redirected and permitted only a limited Internet connection to the sandbox server. In this situation, the security module only allows the non-compliant computer to access the sandbox server to perform a defined set of tasks to address the non-compliance. All other Internet access by the non-compliant computer is disabled." (paragraph 0148)

"The sandbox server listens for communications on a number of ports. When the sandbox server receives a packet on a particular port, the port that is used for communication signals a particular compliance problem for the client computer that is redirected. The port acts to categorize the reason for the redirection of the client computer in this fashion. Based on the port which the packet is received, the sandbox server displays an appropriate error page corresponding to the compliance problem that is detected." (paragraph 0115)

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Therefore, Freund specifically discloses that the sandbox server is configured to listen for requests on said new port number and indicates whether said content is restricted based on said request and said new port number by limiting access by the client to the Internet by providing an error message that indicates why content is restricted. Since the claim does not specifically recite what type of content is restricted or what specifically what the indication by the content filtering server is used or exactly what is being indicated besides the nominally recited indication of content restriction, limiting access by a client to the Internet as disclosed in Freund is interpreted by the Examiner to be restricting content and the sandbox server provides an indication by providing an error page. Therefore, in view of the claim's broadest reasonable interpretation, Freund does disclose these limitations.

Therefore, Freund does disclose the limitations of the claim and the claims are not in condition for allowance.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless -

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the

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invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 1-6, 11-12, 14-15, and 17-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by US Patent Application Publication 2003/0055962 to Freund et al.

Regarding claim 1, Freund discloses a method for content filtering, comprising:

receiving a request for content from a client computer, where said request includes a port number assigned to an application program running on said client computer; (paragraph 0147, specifically step 910)

determining that said port number is a predetermined port number associated with the request for content; (paragraph 0147, specifically step 950)

renumbering said request with a new port number; (paragraph 0149, specifically "...the destination port is set...")

transmitting said request with said new port number to a content filtering server ("sandbox server") that is configured to listen for requests on said new port number; (paragraph 0149, specifically "...reroute this packet to the sandbox server...")

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obtaining from said content filtering server an indication of whether said content is restricted based on said request and said new port number. (paragraph 0149, specifically the sentence "Using this information...")

Claim 18 is rejected since claim 18 recites a computer program product that contains substantially the same limitations as recited in claim 1.

Regarding claim 2, Freund discloses the method for content filtering of claim 1, wherein said renumbering comprises:

determining a user of said client computer's filtering privilege and changing said request with said new port number based on said filtering privilege. (paragraph 0149)

Regarding claim 3, Freund discloses the method for content filtering of claim 1, wherein said obtaining further comprises receiving said requested content, thereby indicating that said content is not restricted. (paragraph 0149, specifically the paragraph "An alternative approach...")

Regarding claim 4, Freund discloses the method for content filtering of claim 3, further comprising transmitting said content to said client computer. (paragraph 0149, specifically the paragraph "An alternative approach...")

Regarding claim 5, Freund discloses the method for content filtering of claim 1, wherein said obtaining further comprises

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receiving a notification that said content is blocked.

(paragraph 0149, specifically the paragraph "Using this information...")

Regarding claim 6, Freund discloses the method for content filtering of claim 5, further comprising notifying said client computer that said content is blocked. (paragraph 0149, specifically the paragraph "Using this information...")

Regarding claim 11, Freund discloses the method for content filtering of claim 1, further comprising, after said receiving, determining an Internet Protocol (IP) address of said client computer, such that said method for content filtering applies only to a particular client computer. (paragraph 0147)

Regarding claim 12, Freund discloses the method for content filtering of claim 1, wherein said determining further comprises ascertaining that said port number is TCP (Transmission Control Protocol) port 80. (paragraph 0148, specifically step 950)

Regarding claim 14, Freund discloses a content filtering gateway ("router"), comprising:

a Central Processing Unit (CPU); communications circuitry; and input/output ports; and a memory containing an operating system; (paragraph 0074)

a port sniffer; (paragraph 0147, specifically the sentence "In step 910...")

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a database of filtering privileges and associated port numbers ("router compliance table"); (paragraph 0149) and filtering procedures comprising:

instructions for receiving a request for content from a client computer, where said request includes a port number assigned to an application program running on said client computer; (paragraph 0147, specifically step 910)

instructions for determining that said port number is a predetermined port number associated with the request for content; (paragraph 0147, specifically step 950)

instructions for renumbering said request with one of said associated port numbers from the database of filtering privileges to form a new port number; (paragraph 0149, specifically "...the destination port is set...")

instructions for transmitting said request with said one of said new port number to a content filtering server that is configured to listen for requests on said new port number; (paragraph 0149, specifically "...reroute this packet to the sandbox server...")

and instructions for obtaining from said content filtering server an indication of whether said content is restricted based on said request and said new port number. (paragraph 0149, specifically the sentence "Using this information...")

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Regarding claim 15, Freund discloses the content filtering gateway of claim 14, wherein said memory further comprises a filtering database containing a filtering database of Internet Protocol (IP) addresses and their associated filter privileges. (paragraph 0147)

Regarding claim 17, Freund discloses the content filtering gateway of claim 14, wherein said memory further comprises authentication procedures ("security module"). (paragraph 0147)

Regarding claim 19, Freund discloses a system for content filtering, comprising:

at least one content server that stores content ("Web site"); (paragraph 0007) (see also Figure 3, element 350)

at least one client computer configured to transmit a request for said content to said at least one content server, where said request contains an address of said content server and a port number associated with said request for said content ("destination IP address" and "destination port"); (paragraph 0007 and 0147)

a gateway coupled to said at least one client computer, where said gateway is configured to receive and renumber said request with a new port number associated with a filter privilege of a user of said at least one client computer;

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(paragraph 0149, specifically "...the destination port is set...")

a content filtering server, configured to block restricted content based on said filter privilege, said request and said new port number ("sandbox server"); (paragraph 0149) and

a switch coupled to said gateway, said content filtering server, and said at least one content server, where said switch is configured to listen for said request on said new port number and to redirect said request to said content filtering server. ("routing component"; Figure 3, element 313)

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.

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2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

Claims 7-10 and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Freund et al in view of "SonicWall SOHO Internet Security Appliance" ("SonicWall").

Regarding claim 7, Freund discloses the method for content filtering of claim 5.

Freund does not expressly disclose the method further comprising:

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receiving login details from said client computer; authenticating a user of said client computer based on said login details; determining said user's filter privileges based on said login details; ascertaining an additional port number based on said filter privileges; renumbering said request with said additional port number; transmitting said request with said additional port number to a content filtering server that is configured to listen for requests on said additional port number; and acquiring from said content filtering server an indication of whether said content is restricted based on said request and said additional port number, however, Freund does disclose determining said user's filter privileges; ascertaining an additional port number based on said filter privileges; renumbering said request with said additional port number; transmitting said request with said additional port number to a content filtering server that is configured to listen for requests on said additional port number; and acquiring from said content filtering server an indication of whether said content is restricted based on said request and said additional port number as shown above regarding claim 5.

"SonicWall" discloses receiving login details from a client computer; authenticating a user of the client computer based on the login details; and determining a user's filter privileges

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based on the login details. (pages 99-101, "User Authentication", specifically "Establishing an Authenticated Session")

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of these references since "SonicWall" discloses that authenticating a user and determining a user's filter privileges based on login details enables a user to bypass the content filter (page 99, "User Authentication", first paragraph). In view of these specific advantages and that the references are directed to using an intermediary device in a content filtering system that determines filtering privileges, one of ordinary skill would have been motivated to combine these references and would have considered them to be analogous to one another based on their related fields of endeavor, which would lead one of ordinary skill to reasonably expect a successful combination of the teachings.

Regarding claim 8, Freund and "SonicWall" disclose the method for content filtering of claim 7.

Freund discloses wherein said acquiring further comprises receiving said requested content indicating that said content is not restricted. (paragraph 0149, specifically the paragraph "An alternative approach...")

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Regarding claim 9, Freund and "SonicWall" disclose the method for content filtering of claim 7.

Freund discloses wherein said acquiring further comprises receiving a notification that said content is blocked.

(paragraph 0149, specifically the paragraph "Using this information...")

Regarding claim 10, Freund and "SonicWall" disclose the method for content filtering of claim 7.

Freund does not expressly disclose the method further comprising associating said login details with an Internet Protocol (IP) address of said client computer, such that said method for content filtering applies only to a particular client computer, however, Freund does disclose determining an Internet Protocol (IP) address of said client computer, such that said method for content filtering applies only to a particular client computer. (paragraph 0147)

Freund and "SonicWall" do not expressly disclose associating said login details with an Internet Protocol (IP) address of said client computer, such that said method for content filtering applies only to a particular client computer, however, Freund does disclose determining an Internet Protocol (IP) address of said client computer, such that said method for content filtering applies only to a particular client computer.

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(paragraph 0147). "SonicWall" also discloses wherein the login details are used such that the method for content filtering applies only to a particular client computer (pages 99-101, "User Authentication", subsection "Establishing an Authenticated Session").

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the teachings of Freund and "SonicWall" since the references suggest that a user uses a client computer that contains an IP address in order to send a request and that the IP address of the client computer is used to filter content (paragraph 0147 of Freund) (page 96, "Source"). In view of these suggestions and teachings shown above, one of ordinary skill would have found it obvious to modify the references so that the login details of the user using the client computer are associated together since, in order for the teachings of "SonicWall" to operate, the user must login from a client computer. The authorized user is bound to a particular client computer at the time of authentication, therefore, one of ordinary skill in the art would recognize that, in order for the user to be authenticated, the user must be associated with a particular client computer.

Regarding claim 16, Freund discloses the content filtering gateway of claim 14.

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Freund does not expressly disclose wherein said memory further comprises a user database containing login details for multiple users and each user's associated filter privilege, however, "SonicWall" does disclose this limitation ("user list"; see pages 99-100)

Claim 16 is rejected since the motivations regarding the obviousness of claim 7 also apply to claim 16.

Conclusion

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to George C.

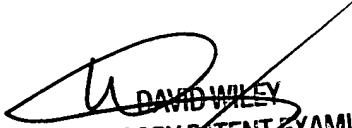
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Neurauter, Jr. whose telephone number is (571) 272-3918. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 9AM to 5:30PM Eastern.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Wiley can be reached on (571) 272-3923. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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